

FLP-D-8
Draft (27 Feb 56)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

I. Authority

The Advisory Committee on Foreign Language Publications was established in pursuance of paragraph 5 of NSCID-13 (7 March 1953) to assist the Director of Central Intelligence in the implementation of that Directive. The Committee is composed of representatives of the IAC agencies and can invite other interested agencies to sit with it on matters which concern them. Chairmanship is provided by CIA.

II. Organization

Three subcommittees have been established which comprehend in general the responsibilities separately identified in the Directive and which are listed below.

III. Responsibilities, Accomplishments and Objectives

A. PROCUREMENT

1. Responsibility: To assist the Director of Central Intelligence in insuring the coordination of the procurement of foreign language publications for intelligence purposes, it being understood that captured documents are excepted from this provision.

2. Projects Completed:

a. Compilation of the Union List of USSR Serial Publications was substantially completed save for a considerable number of USSR periodical and newspaper titles which either appeared initially or reappeared after a long absence during 1955. To incorporate such titles, publication of the List has been postponed until Spring, 1956.

b. Improvements and expansion of procurement facilities in the field were recommended. Discussions are continually in progress between State and CIA on methods of improving and expanding the procurement of foreign publications. During 1955, discussions centered about the need for Publication Procurement Officer [REDACTED] Justification for such positions and candidates suitable for filling them were submitted.

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for six months during 1955. The use of personnel on TDY at particular posts, although not entirely satisfactory, has been of value to the PPO program and in areas such as Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia might prove beneficial.

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Apart from staffing problems, the largest single obstacle encountered in field procurement remains the varied clerical tasks which encumber the intelligence operations of the PPO. During 1955, moderate success was obtained in reducing this load by transferring to Washington the book accessioning and accounting tasks of PPO's Moscow, Paris, and Hong Kong. The transfer of such functions permitted PPO's to spend more time on the selective acquisition of required publications.

As a result of the early summer trip of Mr. George Pope, Chief, IAD/State to Europe, expansion of the Iberian Peninsula procurement program and of increased procurement in Rome, Athens, and Bern were implemented. The senior PPO's of the areas concerned, i.e., Paris and Berlin, were instructed to develop contacts with local book dealers and engage their cooperation in bringing to the attention of local Mission representatives information on publications of potential interest to Washington. This program is still in the formative stage.

c. Efforts to coordinate requirements in Washington and collection in the field have continued. Accomplishments in coordinating requirements and collection by action of member agencies unilaterally or jointly include:

(1) Collection Guide No. 2, Chinese Communist Serial Publications was issued during 1955. The title, issuing authority and place of publication of all newspapers received through various sources are cited together with current holdings of the title.

(2) Recent Additions, Russian Book List and Chinese Book List as accession listings proved valuable in improving the identification of publications of intelligence interest, and concomitantly improving the effectiveness of requirements sent to the field.

(3) Fulfillment of requirements for Sino-Soviet Bloc publications received in single copy only was materially increased during 1955. Critical USSR publications on industrial prices and production standards, Chinese telephone directories and technical journals, Satellite official gazettes and diplomatic lists, and special bibliographies were photocopied and disseminated.

(4) The development of cooperative schemes for obtaining Sino-Soviet Bloc publications via informal exchanges through foreign academic research organizations is progressing rapidly. The New Delhi, Berlin, Paris and Tokyo PPO's have made contributions worthy of note.

(5) Chinese Mainland and North Korean publication procurement was improved through the assistance of the 29th Engineers, 500th NIG and 6002nd AISG in Tokyo. Exchange of "want lists" and photocopying of single copy items have contributed to this improvement.

3. Projects Planned

a. To examine the advantages in having a single reporting point in the intelligence community for collation of the scope and product of each department or agency's foreign publication procurement program. The successes of the past year, as recited above, in the cooperative efforts with single copy reproduction for the benefit of all would seem to favor such action.

b. To study the possibility of a single fund concept for serial subscriptions and book and monograph purchase at Embassy Moscow for all agencies. If successful at Moscow, similar procedures would be studied for other posts.

c. To determine further advantages in the exchange program in line with accomplishments reported in paragraph III.2.c.(4) above.

d. To continue to improve coordination of requirements in Washington and collection in the field.

B. EXPLOITATION

1. Responsibility: To assist the Director of Central Intelligence in insuring the coordination of the preparation and dissemination of English-language excerpts, summaries, abstracts, and compilations from foreign language publications.

2. Projects Completed

a. The second review of the foreign language publication exploitation program gave special attention to:

(1) the principal exploitation requirements levied upon FDD by the intelligence community;

(2) the coverage provided by existing facilities other than FDD and their capacity to fill in whole or in defined parts any additional requirements which would release FDD effort for wider and deeper coverage in other required fields;

(3) The pertinence and periodicity of FDD reports;

(4) the manpower allocations in FDD.

This review resulted in refinement of the program. Recommendations of the members included the publication of 43 periodical reports containing unique information of value to the community.

b. Two years of operation of the exploitation subcommittee have brought the objectives of the group more clearly into focus. As a result, a restatement of these objectives was made and approved by the parent committee.

c. The transliteration practices of member agencies were reviewed.

d. Standardization of Chinese Communist terminology was examined by a Working Group. The report is now under review by the Subcommittee.

3. Projects Planned

a. A third review of the exploitation program is currently under way for the Sino-Soviet Bloc and exploitation of non-Communist area publications will follow. The objectives of this review are:

(1) To determine as precisely as possible the priority needs of the various agencies using the criteria.

(a) The application of requirements to National Intelligence Objectives as outlined in DCID 4/5.

(b) The needs for the same or similar information by several agencies.

(c) The suitability of available foreign language publications to meet these needs.

(2) To determine precisely what needs of the respective agencies cannot be met by existing facilities.

(3) To recommend allocation of available manpower so as to satisfy the most urgent requirements of the agencies.

(4) To report in detail to the Advisory Committee with recommendations as to how foreign language publications, not now exploited, may be processed for needed intelligence information.

C. REFERENCE

1. Responsibility. To assist the Director of Central Intelligence in insuring the coordination of the development and maintenance of indices, accession lists, and references services regarding foreign language publications.

2. Accomplishments:

a. Inter-agency study of possible new systems for processing and retrieval by subject of all categories of intelligence source materials,

including foreign language publications, culminated in May 1955 in the establishment by the IAC of an ad hoc Subcommittee on Information Processing (AHIP) to coordinate future developments in this field. Membership in the new subcommittee coincided with that of the Reference Subcommittee, both as to agency and in most instances as to personal representation. As a result, a number of topics were taken up by AHIP which, previously, had been discussed by the Reference Subcommittee, or which would, in the absence of AHIP, have fallen to this group. Among these topics were the following:

- (1) Adoption of CIA's Intelligence Subject Code by the intelligence community.
- (2) Adoption of a common IAC inter-library loan form.
- (3) Development of an IAC-wide document processing system in anticipation of Minicard.

b. During 1955 the CIA Library obtained contributions and editorial comments from all Reference Subcommittee members with regard to its annotated Guide to Reference Material (CR #1, released January 1956). The Library also published the last of the Subcommittee sponsored surveys of Sovbloc lexical materials entitled Russian Lexical Inventory.

3. Projects Planned

On 13 January 1956 the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Foreign Language Publications directed suspension of meetings of the Reference Subcommittee and a joining of forces with the ad hoc Subcommittee on Information Processing, cf. paragraph 2.a. above, so long as the latter continues in operation. "Where separate consideration of foreign language publications reference problems is desirable, the AHIP agenda will so announce in order that proper agency representation can be assured" - para. 7, AHIP-M-19, 15 February 1956.

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Chairman